425-2013

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO:

Mayor Philip Levine and Members of the City Commission

FROM:

Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE:

December 3€, 2013

SUBJECT: ART BASEL 2013 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN

The purpose of this Letter to Commission (LTC) is to provide information on the development of a comprehensive traffic management plan to be deployed during Art Basel Miami Beach 2013.

The City's Transportation Division has been collaborating with the Tourism and Cultural Affairs. Police, and Communications Departments as well as with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), City of Miami, and Miami-Dade Transit to develop a traffic management plan which is intended to manage congestion during Art Basel 2013.

As a result of various recent meetings with agencies, key stakeholders and elected officials. including State Representative David Richardson and Mayor Philip Levine, a collaborative traffic management plan has been developed that will maximize the use of the State's and City's resources and help reduce the impacts of event traffic in an effort to improve the experience of residents and visitors during Art Basel Miami Beach 2013.

The traffic management plan consists of six (6) elements which are further described below:

- Miami/Miami Beach Art Basel Trolley Service
- Traffic Monitoring Camera System
- Designated Event Access Routes
- Static and Dynamic Wayfinding Signage
- **Construction Activity Moratorium**
- Police Detail

The attached figure depicts the various elements of the traffic management plan.

Art Basel Miami Beach-Miami Trolley Service

The Cities of Miami and Miami Beach and the Miami Downtown Development Authority have partnered to provide direct trolley service between Midtown Miami and the Miami Beach Convention Center during Art Basel. The trolley service will operate free of charge from Wednesday, December 4th through Sunday, December 8th between the hours of 11AM and 10PM (8PM on Sunday). Two (2) trolleys will provide a direct shuttle service via either the Julia Tuttle Causeway or the Venetian Causeway depending on traffic conditions at the time. The designated trolley stops will be located at Midtown Boulevard/29th Street in Miami and at Washington Avenue in front of the Fillmore at the Jackie Gleason in Miami Beach. Each trolley will leave its destination every hour on the hour. Further, the Art Basel Miami Beach - Miami trolleys will connect to the Art Basel Miami Week Loop providing service to art fairs located in Midtown Miami, Wynwood, and Downtown Miami.

The attached figure depicts the Art Basel Miami - Miami Beach Trolley service. For more

information, please visit www.miamibeachfl.gov/scroll.aspx?ID=69891.

Traffic Monitoring Camera System

As part of a pilot program, the City has engaged the same traffic engineering firm performing traffic monitoring services on the FDOT Alton Road Reconstruction project to install additional traffic cameras during Art Basel 2013. Currently, as part of the Alton Road Reconstruction Project from 5th Street to Michigan Avenue, FDOT has installed traffic cameras at the following locations:

- Dade Blvd and Alton Rd
- Alton Rd and 17th St
- Meridian Ave and 17th St
- Dade Blvd and Meridian Ave
- N Michigan Ave and Dade Blvd
- N Michigan Ave and Alton Rd
- 5th St and Alton Rd
- 5th St and West Ave
- 8th St and Alton Rd

The pilot program to be deployed during Art Basel will consist of installing additional traffic cameras at the following intersections:

- Alton Rd and 15th St
- Dade Blvd and Washington Blvd
- Washington Blvd and 17th St
- 41st St and Pine Tree Dr
- Washington Blvd and 5th St
- Alton Rd and 41st St

The traffic cameras strategically located at the above intersections throughout key ingress/egress routes will allow the City's Police Department to view real-time traffic conditions and deploy officers to manage traffic at congested areas. Additionally, through the use of cameras providing real-time traffic information, the timing of traffic signals at critical intersections can be adjusted to improve traffic flow and reduce congestion in the areas most affected by Art Basel traffic. The data captured by traffic cameras, including travel time between any two points, will be used to further refine the Art Basel traffic management plan as well as help in developing event-based traffic plans for future major events in the City.

Designated Event Access Routes

Given current roadway construction, lane closures and detours in the City, the FDOT and City of Miami Beach have identified routes that will provide the most effective means of access to/from Art Basel. For traffic accessing Art Basel from the mainland and north of I-195, the designated route will be Julia Tuttle Causeway, Arthur Godfrey Road/41st Street, Pine Tree Drive, Dade Boulevard, and Washington Avenue. The Miami/Miami Beach Art Basel Trolley service will operate along this same route. For traffic accessing Art Basel from the mainland and south of I-395, the designated route will be MacArthur Causeway, 5th Street Flyover to Alton Road, and 17th Street. Although this route coincides with the ongoing detour established for the Alton Road reconstruction project, it is anticipated that traffic will flow at acceptable levels in the northbound direction since southbound Alton Road traffic has been detoured to West Avenue and turning movement conflicts due to opposing traffic have been minimized for northbound

Alton Road traffic.

Additionally, as a result of a recent meeting between City officials, FDOT officials, Mayor Philip Levine and State Representative David Richardson, the FDOT re-opened northbound Alton Road from 17th Street to Dade Boulevard and partially re-opened northbound Alton Road from Dade Boulevard to Michigan Avenue on Monday, December 2nd. This segment of Alton Road has been closed for some time due to the ongoing Alton Road reconstruction project. The re-opening of this section of Alton Road will be crucial in providing an effective means of access to/from the Miami Beach Convention Center during Art Basel and reducing congestion at other critical locations in the vicinity and along event access routes. Following Art Basel, FDOT will intermittently close the re-opened lanes to work in the area. The detour through eastbound 17th Street, northbound Meridian Avenue, westbound Dade Boulevard, and northbound Michigan Avenue will remain signed for drivers who do not proceed north on Alton Road.

Static and Dynamic Wayfinding Signage

Approximately eleven (11) Digital Message Signs and numerous Art Basel wayfinding signs will be strategically located along designated event access routes including I-95, MacArthur Causeway, Julia Tuttle Causeway, and at key intersections and decision points to guide event traffic to/from the mainland and the Miami Beach Convention Center during Art Basel.

FDOT Construction Activity

As noted above, the section of Alton Road between 17th Street and Michigan Avenue will be reopened by FDOT by Monday, December 2nd in order to enhance access to/from the Miami Beach Convention Center during Art Basel.

FDOT has advised that work will continue through Art Basel in the areas currently closed. No new lane closures will be in effect during the event.

Police Detail

The Miami Beach Police Department has requested that FDOT assist with funding additional police officers to monitor traffic conditions and manage traffic at critical intersections as necessary during Art Basel.

The Miami Beach Police Department will be deploying police officers to key intersections to help keep traffic flowing and avoid vehicles from blocking the box. Officers have been instructed to take charge of the intersection and direct traffic on an as-needed basis.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Attachment: Art Basel 2013 Traffic Management Plan Map

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